

“The Church – A Safe Place” – Karl Jones

Intro: Many of the Psalms speak of God as a refuge, a fortress, a safe place. Note Ps. 18:1-3. We live in a world filled with danger, and every human is far more frail and vulnerable than anyone wants to admit. So humans try to secure protection and safeguards – we build walls and bunkers and accumulate savings sufficient to cover any unforeseen calamities.

However, the only true safe place for humans is . . . God. God intended for the Church to be the tangible place for all people to feel and be genuinely secure and safe.

While those of us on the “inside” may feel safe and secure, would those on the “outside” see us as a safe and welcoming place? Would those on the “outside”:

- Expect to be _____ in spite of their sin or _____ because of their sins?
- Fear being _____ or feel _____ and _____?

Let His Church remember the words of Jesus: Luke 18:9-14 and Luke 5:29-32.

I. The Church – A Safe Place.

1. What God should do (and could do) is _____ every one of _____ because of our sins, but here we are. How? Why?
2. Because of the _____ of _____. Titus 3:3-7
 - A.) When we can learn to love all people with the _____ of _____, then this church will truly be a _____. John 13:34-35
3. Because of the _____ and _____ of God that freely extends forgiveness.
 - A.) The mission of the Church is not to proclaim _____ on _____ but to proclaim _____ and a new beginning. John 3:17
4. Because _____ is found in God and His Word.
 - A.) Only when we stand firmly in the truth of God’s Word are we truly safe from _____.

II. The Church – Kept Safe.

1. In Jesus we are kept safe from the _____ of the _____ Rom. 8:31-34, Rom. 8:1-2
2. In Jesus we are kept safe from _____. John 11:25-26, 2 Tim. 4:18
3. 1 Peter 3:20 speaks of Noah and his family being saved “in the ark.” It is a vivid example:
 - A.) _____ who were in the ark were _____, and _____ who were outside the ark _____.
 - B.) Today, _____ who are in Jesus and His Church will be _____, and _____ who are not in Jesus and His Church will be _____.

III. The Church – A Safe Place for You.

1. God designed the Church to be a place where _____ could find shelter and safety. Today, He welcomes you, if you will seek the shelter of His _____ and _____.